

height, their nearest neighbour, Jim Graham, returns after a year's absence. He is, in its truest sense, Cicely's lover. For a short time, when she was seventeen, they were engaged, but he felt it was unfair to bind her so young when he was unable to marry at once. On his way home he made the acquaintance of a great explorer, Ronald Mackenzie, a clever man, risen from the people; but now, owing to his great discoveries, a man of world-wide reputation. Mackenzie comes with Jim to Kencote, Cicely's home; sees her, falls in love with her, realises the depth of her discontent with her life, and her longing for freedom. On this he trades. His wooing is of the briefest, and almost brutal in the way he over-rides all her objections, persuading her to elope with him to London. Dazzled by the prospect (as she believes) of sharing his life of adventure, she leaves home. Most luckily she writes to her mother from London, a letter intercepted by Dick, who promptly follows her with Graham. The rescue of the girl is most dramatically told.

That Jim Graham realises that a woman wants more interests than are to be found in a dull, country life is fortunate, and the reader feels that Cicely will eventually be happy and useful in her married life.

E. L. H.

COMING EVENTS.

November 23rd.—Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W. Lecture on "Wasting Babies," by Dr. Ralph Vincent, 5 p.m.

November 23rd.—Lecture on St. Francis of Assisi, by the Rev. E. F. Russell, Chaplain-General of the Guild of St. Barnabas, St. Alban's Hall, Baldwin's Gardens, 8.30 p.m.

November 23rd.—Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives. Address by Mrs. Charles E. Hobhouse on "The Report of the Departmental Committee Appointed to Consider the Working of the Midwives' Act." Chairman, H. Cosmo O. Bonsor, Esq. 2, Cromwell Houses (23, Cromwell Road), S.W. 4.15 p.m.

November 24th.—Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Lecture on "Some Surgical Conditions to which a Nurse is Liable." By Mr. Alex. Miles F.R.C.S.E. Extra Mural Medical Theatre, 4.30 p.m.

November 25th.—Meeting of Central Midwives' Board, Caxton House, Westminster, S.W. 2.45 p.m.

November 26th.—The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Meeting of the Executive Committee, 431, Oxford Street, W., 4 p.m.

November 26th.—The School Nurses' League, Benevolent Fund. Concert and Informal Dance, "Horns" Hotel Assembly Rooms, Kennington (near Oval Station). 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 2s. each, from Miss Layton, 70, Muswell Road, Muswell Hill, N.

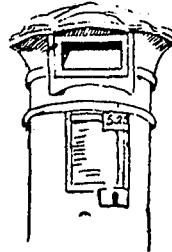
November 27th.—Society of Women Journalists, Annual Dinner, Waldorf Hotel, 7 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

A woman's brain is an active organ; it will grind chaff if it has no corn to grind.

The Englishwoman.

Letters to the Editor.



Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

THE CASE OF NURSE BELLAMY.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me, through the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, to say how sorry I am for Miss Bellamy, who has undergone such a terrible experience at Hemel Hempstead Infirmary? I have been Superintendent Nurse myself in a small workhouse infirmary, and, being fully aware that by far the great majority of the readers of the nursing papers are nurses who have trained in well-conducted, splendidly-managed hospitals and large infirmaries, and therefore know nothing whatever of the trying conditions under which nurses are working in the small infirmaries, I should like to draw their attention to a few facts.

At Hemel Hempstead only three nurses were kept. I take it that one of the three would be on duty alone at night, leaving two for day duty, which means that only one of those two would be on duty for a certain period of the day—i.e., during off-duty hours, etc., for each. This means a great deal, even if there were not many patients, for one nurse will often be left entirely alone to do everything for them, attend to the comfort and cleanliness of the male and female senile and infirm (no small matter), do the surgical dressings (some will be found in even the smallest infirmaries), medicines and food to serve, temperatures to take, the acutely sick to attend to, with occasionally a maternity case, a casualty from the tramp ward, or a sick child from the workhouse nursery may be brought in, and we all know that cases of emergency generally spring up at the most inopportune moments. I would ask all nurses, trained and in training in hospitals and large infirmaries, nurses who, in all cases of doubt or emergency, can appeal to their Staff Nurses, their Day or Night Sisters, their Resident House Surgeons and Physicians, to think this over. There is room for reflection before we cast the whole blame of that much to be deplored tragedy at Hemel Hempstead entirely upon the nurses. In the first place, neither of the three appear to have been a trained nurse, and since the Matron was acting as Superintendent Nurse surely she should have been the proper person to give orders for the bathing of the patients (in the event of the Medical Officer not having issued instructions), and should have seen that the porter understood, and could register the heat of the water. The nurse, trained or untrained, would have no authority over the porter, for let it be known that in many of these small places the porter's position, in a way, ranks higher than that of the nurse, for he takes the place of Assistant Master, takes

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)